

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,219

Examiner

Prabodh M. Dharja

Applicant(s)

HILL ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10-15-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 10-01-2007,09-07-2007.

Art Unit: 2629

1. **Status:** Please all the replies and correspondence should be addressed to Examiner's new art unit 2629. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted on 10-15-2007 under amendments, new claims and request for reconsideration, which have been placed of record in the file. Claims 1-56 are pending in this action.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed 10-15-2007 does not introduce any new matter into the disclosure. The added material is supported by the original disclosure. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 17, 30 and 38, adding allowable limitations and added new independent claim 44 with allowable limitations to expedite allowability of the instant application.

3. Applicant has amended the abstract per objection. Therefore objection to abstract is withdrawn.

4. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 17, 30 and 38, adding allowable limitations and added new independent claim 44 with allowable limitations to expedite allowability of the instant application. Applicant arguments filed on 10-15-2007, under remark regarding allowable limitations "overlapping coordinate input sub-regions defining a generally contiguous input region with each coordinate input sub-region separately tracking pointer movement therein by capturing images using a set of associated cameras having overlapping fields of view and in response generating pointer coordinate data wherein the pointer coordinate data generated by each of the coordinate input sub- regions as a result of pointer movement within the overlapping

Art Unit: 2629

portions is processed in accordance with defined logic to yield a single set of pointer coordinate data representing the pointer movement within the overlapping portions. The pointer coordinate data generated by each of the coordinate input sub-regions as a result of pointer movement within the overlapping portions is processed in accordance with defined logic or calculate the position of the pointer contact using triangulation; to yield a single set of pointer coordinate data representing the pointer movement within the overlapping portions” are persuasive; as after further extensive search and consideration, the amended independent claims 1,17,30,38 and new independent claim 44, do overcome the prior art rejection mailed on 06-13-2007, which puts application number 10750219 in condition for allowance.

5. The closest prior art recited on 892's to applicant's teaching; Morrison, Gerald et al. (US 2003/0043116 A1) and Morrison, Gerald D et al. (US 20040178993 A1) are 102(e) prior arts. The assignee of the instant application and prior arts are listed above is SMART TECHNOLOGIES, INC. The other inventors of the prior art of Morrison, Gerald et al. (US 2003/0043116 A1) is Tseng Su, Scott Yu and Morrison, Gerald D et al. (US 20040178993 A1) is Holmgren, David. Inventors Holmgren, David and Tseng Su, Scott Yu are both co-inventors of the instant application. Therefore the Morrison, Gerald et al. (US 2003/0043116 A1) and Morrison, Gerald D et al. (US 20040178993 A1) are not good and valid 102(e) prior arts.

However, the prior arts of Morrison, Gerald et al. (US 2003/0043116 A1) and Morrison, Gerald D et al. (US 20040178993 A1) are to be considered as prior arts; they do fail to recite or disclose the uniquely distinct features of the independent claims limitations below in combination with all the other limitations of independent claims recited:

“ pointer tracking system including at least two overlapping coordinate input sub-regions defining a generally contiguous input region, each coordinate input sub-region separately tracking pointer movement therein by capturing images using a set of associated cameras having overlapping fields of view and in response generating pointer coordinate data, a method for tracking a pointer across overlapping portions of said coordinate input sub-regions. The method comprises detecting by each coordinate input sub-region pointer movements within overlapping portions of the coordinate input sub-regions and generating by each coordinate sub- region pointer coordinate data. The pointer coordinate data generated by each of the coordinate input sub-regions as a result of pointer movement within the overlapping portions is processed in accordance with defined logic or calculate the position of the pointer contact using triangulation; to yield a single set of pointer coordinate data representing the pointer movement within the overlapping portions.”

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-56 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 17, 30 and 38 adding allowable limitations to expedite allowability of the instant application and overcome prior art rejection. Applicant has added new claims 44-56; with independent claim 44 reciting allowable limitations.

Applicant's arguments filed on 10-15-2007 are convincing. As argued by applicant in remarks under claim rejection page 16, paragraphs 2,3, page 17, paragraphs 1-3, and page 18,

Art Unit: 2629

paragraphs 2,3; prior art of Hidai; Hideo (US 2006/0274067 A1); Kulas, Charles J. (US 2003/0151562 A1); Ditzik; Richard J. (US 5,771,039 A) and Pryor; Timothy R et al. (US 2006/0202953 A1); with all of the other prior art cited on 892's 1449's, searched in NPL and searched in PGPUB, fails to recite or disclose all the other limitations of independent claims in combination with uniquely distinct features represented by underlined bold claim limitations recited below;

a pointer tracking system including at least two overlapping coordinate input sub-regions defining a generally contiguous input region, each coordinate input sub-region separately tracking pointer movement therein by capturing images using a set of associated cameras having overlapping fields of view and in response generating pointer coordinate data, a method for tracking a pointer across overlapping portions of said coordinate input sub-regions. The method comprises detecting by each coordinate input sub-region pointer movements within overlapping portions of the coordinate input sub-regions and generating by each coordinate sub-region pointer coordinate data. The pointer coordinate data generated by each of the coordinate input sub-regions as a result of pointer movement within the overlapping portions is processed in accordance with defined logic or calculate the position of the pointer contact using triangulation; to yield a single set of pointer coordinate data representing the pointer movement within the overlapping portions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2629

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M Dharia whose telephone number is 571-272-7668.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.

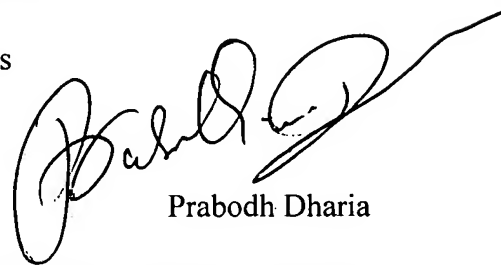
9. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231



Prabodh Dharia

Full Signatory Authority Program

AU2629

11-03-2007